Working Group on Energy Policy (1979) had estimated that the annual per capita consumption of energy on households in rural areas is about 0.38 tonnes of coal replacement and the household energy constitutes about 80 per cent of the total energy consumption in rural areas. Estimates in respect of tribal areas are not available separately.

(b) The per capita energy consumption in rural areas in India is lower in comparison to that in some of the Commonwealth countries.

(c) The programmes undertaken in the 7th Plan to augment the availability of energy in rural areas include additional supply of electricity from the grid, setting up of bio-gas plants, improved chulhas, fuelwood plantation, Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme, and installation of devices based on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy.

Telephones on the recommendation of Members of Parliament

1425. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are sanctioned on the recommendations of Members of Parliament in the same way as Petroleum Ministry allows cooking gas connections; and

(b) if so, on what basis recommendations of Members of Parliament are accepted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Recommendations from Members of Parliament for according priority for telephone connections are given due consideration. The recommendations are accepted taking into consideration the availability of exchange capacity and merits of the case.

In view of above, no separate quota is considered necessary.

Shifting of hazardous Industries in Assam to safe places

1426. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been made about the industries which are located in crowded localities in Assam and whose emissions of gas are harmful to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details of those studies; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to shift these industries to far off areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The Ministry of Industry have not made any such studies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposals for setting up of National Advisory Panel

1427. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hurdles for the Central Government for setting up a national advisory panel with representatives of the State Governments for formulating national industrial policy for the country from time to time;

(b) whether any such proposals have been received from the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a Central Advisory Council of Industries to advise it on

matters concerning the development and regulation of the industries included in the Schedule to the Act. According to the Act, the Council is to consist of members, not exceeding 30 in number, representing different categories specified in the Act.

The Ministry of Industry has not received any specified proposal from State Governments for their inclusion in the Council. However, in their views on the Sarkaria Commission's Report on Centre-State Relations, many State Governments have supported the recommendation of the Commission to include representatives of the State Governments in the Central Advisory Council. This is being dealt with as a part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission's Report.

Imposing cess on oil production in Gujarat and Assam

1428. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited have gone to courts against the cess imposed on oil production in Gujarat and Assam, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) when the Central Government is unilaterally increasing the administered prices of oil and the revenue is not being shared with the States, what is the justification for the above Central Government bodies to question the right of a State to impose the cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The States of Gujarat and Assam have enacted laws providing for the levy of a Rural Development Cess on lands in the States from which mineral oil (natural gas, condensate and petroleum) is produced. The incidence of this cess is related to the value of the mineral oil produced. ONGC and OIL have challenged the validity of these laws in the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds.

Industrial joint ventures

1429. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any industrial joint ventures are under consideration between India and USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Some proposals for foreign collaboration with USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany are at various stages of processing. Details of pending applications are not divulged till Government have taken a final decision thereon.

NCBM claims for R&D technology achievements

1430. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Council for Building Materials has claimed R&D and technological achievements and it has a technology package in the areas such as ready mix concrete, low cost housing fly ash bricks and coloured clinker;

(b) if so, whether any industrial enterprises were set up using NCB technology in the above areas and are supplying products to the public; and

(c) if so, what are the details of production and royalty earned by NCB through supply of these technologies?